

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01056 291413Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, VE

SUBJECT: FY-76 INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM: GROUP ELECTION
YEAR PROJECTS

REF: STATE 019808, 75 CARACAS 12873

IN LIGHT STATE 019808, WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE SEVEN VENEZUELAN POLITICAL LEADERS TRAVEL AS A GROUP TO OBSERVE THE MICHIGAN PRIMARY MAY 18. WE BELIEVE PROGRAM WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF THEY COULD ALSO OBSERVE THE CALIFORNIA PRIMARY JUNE 8. INTERIM PERIOD COULD BE EMPLOYED WITH FAMILIARIZATION VISITS TO STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS IN MID AND FAR WEST. IN THIS CONNECTION WE SUGGEST CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES, OR SAN FRANCISCO.

2. WE STRONGLY PREFER THAT THE TWO VENEZUELAN JOURNALISTS TRAVEL WITH LATIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS GROUP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARY.

3. OUR JUSTIFICATION FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IS THAT BY TRAVELING AS A SEPARATE ENTITY, THE IMPACT OF OUR POLITICAL PROCESS ON THE VENEZUELAN WOULD NOT BE DILUTED BY THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH A HETEROGENEOUS GROUP OF LATIN AMERICANS. THIS APPROACH WOULD SEEM BETTER TO SERVE OUR CURRENT POLICY INTERESTS OF EMPHASIS ON BILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US AND VENEZUELA. ADDITIONALLY, THE ABSENCE OF JOURNALISTS FROM THE VENEZUELAN GROUP MAY
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PAGE 02 CARACA 01056 291413Z

PERMIT THE VENEZUELAN TO FEEL FREER TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT THEY

ARE ABSORBING.

4. SINCE THE VENEZUELAN POLITICAL LEADERS PROPOSED ARE ALL PROMINENT NATIONAL FIGURES AND WOULD TRAVEL SEPARATELY FROM THE OTHER LATIN GROUPS, WE URGE THEY BE AUTHORIZED FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL AND \$45 PER DIEM.

5. NOMINATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS (SELECTED FROM CARACAS 12873, 12/10/75):

DEPUTY HUMBERTO CELLI (AD)

DEPUTY JOSE ANGEL CILIBERTO (AD)

DEPUTY CHRISTOBAL HERNANDEZ (AD)

DEPUTY CELESTINO ARMAS (AD)

DEPUTY ABDON VIVAS TERAN (COPEI)

DEPUTY FABIO MENDEZ (COPEI)

DEPUTY ALBERTO LOPEZ OLIVER (COPEI)

6. AS ALTERNATES WE PROPOSE: LUIS GUEVARA, EDUARDO AGUILAR, DARIO RODRIGUEZ URBINA, RAFAEL CAMACHO, LUIS TURMERO BARRIOS, GUILLERMO LUNA, RAMON ANTONIO MARRON, AND HECTOR ALONSO LOPEZ. SHLUADEMAN

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